

Message Text

SECRET

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11
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 003943
P 240530Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5816

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 3539

EXDIS- MILITARY ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

DEPT ALSO PASS TO CINCPAC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, SN, US
SUBJECT: USAF TEAM FOR SINGAPORE (U)

REF: STATE 179533

1. REGRET SEVERAL DAY DELAY IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL PARA TWO CONCERNING ROC PERSONNEL; HOWEVER, EMBASSY WANTED TO PROVIDE A DEFINITIVE ANSWER WHICH REQUIRED APPROPRIATE TIMING.

2. EMBASSY OFFICER (DATT) RAISED WITH PERM SEC MINDEF, PANG, QUESTION OF ROC OFFICERS IN CONJUNCTION WITH FACT THAT SEVERAL ROC AIR FORCE OFFICERS WERE KNOWN TO HAVE VISITED RECENTLY, IN FACT ONE OR TWO ARE NOW PRESENT. PANG RESPONDED QUITE OPENLY TO EFFECT THAT GOS WAS IN PROCESS OF RECRUITING ONE OR TWO EX ROC AIR FORCE OFFICERS FOR SAF UNDER FOLLOWING CONDITIONS: THAT EX-ROC PERSONNEL WOULD SEVER ALL CONNECTIONS WITH ROC BY RETIRING FROM AIR FORCE AND PERMANENTLY EMIGRATING TO SINGAPORE; ACCEPT PROVISIONAL COMMISSION RSAF AND APPLY FOR SINGAPORE CITIZENSHIP; BE DOCUMENTED AS STATELESS PERSONS DURING PROVISIONAL PERIOD AND BE ISSUED SINGAPORE PASSPORTS AT CONCLUSION OF PROVISIONAL PERIOD (ABOUT THREE YEARS). NOTE THAT THE PROVISIONAL PERIOD OF RESIDENCY AND STATELESS PERSON IDENTITY CARDS IS THE GOS METHOD FOR HANDLING EX-MALAYSIAN CITIZENS IN GOS OFFICIAL POSITIONS.

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3. PANG SPECIFICALLY POINTED OUT TO DATT THAT GOS RECOGNITION

OF PRC WAS COMING IN NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE AND GOS ALREADY MADE AWARE THAT PRC WOULD NOT BE AMENIABLE TO ANY DIRECT GOS/ROC MILITARY TIES AT THAT TIME. PANG FURTHER POINTED OUT CASE OF COLONEL KHOO ENG AN, COMMANDER OF RSN WHO IS EX ROC NAVAL OFFICER, NOW SINGAPORE CITIZEN, AND PROMOTED FROM LTCOL LAST WEEK AS SUCCESSFUL EXAMPLE OF INTEGRAING EX-ROC PERSONNEL WHO HAD IMMIGRATED INTO SINGAPORE.

4. WE TAKE NOTE ALSO THAT THE NUMBERS OF COMMONWEALTH OFFICERS HAVE BEEN STEADILY REDUCED OVER PAST YEAR, BEING REPLACED BY SINGAPOREANS. AT PRESENT RATE ALL COMMONWEALTH OFFICERS WITH EXCEPTION OF CONTRACT FLIGHT INSTRUCTORS SHOULD GONE BY EARLY 1977.

5. BELIEVE DEPARTMENT AND USAF CAN SAFELY PROCEED ON ASSUMPTION ALL PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN RSAF, WILL BE SINGAPOREAN.
HOLDRIDGE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CINCPAC.

SECRET

NNN

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